

Millennial Star



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Appraise Your Assets

THE advent of a New Year brings to business men the traditional task of appraising their assets by the device of a physical stock inventory. Burdensome as this may be it is necessary in providing a true picture of the year's profit and loss and the net worth of the business.

Wise business executives strive for an inventory that represents the fair current value of their goods and are continually reappraising their stock to this end. Anything short of this only delays a sadder day of reckoning.

Life is also a business! We are born with a certain inventory value to which we add and subtract as our lives develop on moral, spiritual, intellectual and physical planes. In the process our personal stock of goods may depreciate through bad habits, misinformation or a false sense of values as to what is really important in life.

How important it is that we frequently take personal stock of our lives. Such self-analysis will increase the awareness of our degree of imperfection. "Be ye perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect" requires the replacing of undesirable habits with good habits; the exchange of mediocre performance for that which is more valiant and rehearsal in our souls of the things in life that really matter.

The true Gospel of Jesus Christ provides standards for measuring our movement toward perfection.

By the application of these principles we may know our true worth.

Cover Picture

This month's cover of the *Millennial Star* is a picture of our new mission president, President Clifton G. M. Kerr. He and his family come from Tremonton, Utah, U.S.A., and look forward to a happy and busy stay here in the British Mission.

Our Contract

DAVID K. HART

WHEN we start a job, what are our intentions for completing it? Do we plan to do a half-hearted job, rather a hit-or-miss affair? Or do we use all of our abilities and concentration to do the best possible work? The end result of anything a person starts should be an example of the best that is in them. It should mirror their effort. This is applicable to anything that we do. Now, through baptism, we have accepted upon ourselves a covenant or a promise. In return for the remission of sins and a means by which we might gain the kingdom of God, we have promised to do all that the Lord requires of us. The contract made was sealed at baptism. The Lord has even given us an agent from whom we may receive instruction, and that is the Holy Ghost. But what exactly has the Lord asked us to do? Well, the *Book of Mormon* has given us the answer:

“I say unto you, my brethren, that if you should render all the thanks and praise which your whole soul has power to possess, to that God who has created you, and has kept and preserved you, and has caused that ye should rejoice, and has granted that ye should live in peace one with another—

“I say unto you that if ye should serve him who has created you from the beginning, and is preserving you from day to day, by lending you breath, that ye may live and

move and do according to your own will, and even supporting you from one to another—I say, if ye should serve him with all your whole souls yet ye would be unprofitable servants.

“*And behold, all that he requires of you is to keep his commandments; and he has promised you that if ye would keep his commandments ye should prosper in the land; and he never doth vary from that which he hath said; therefore if ye do keep his commandments he doth bless you and prosper you.*”—(Mosiah 2:20-22.)

Well, that is it, the contract and conditions. All the Lord requires of us is to keep His commandments. We all know the Ten Commandments, they are the very basis of our legal system today. But Christ gave to us an amplification of the law, in these words:

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

“This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

“On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40.)

One of the most sacred things that we have is our personality, to

develop it as we will. Therefore, our application of the scriptures will be the moulding factor in our lives. If we truly love our God with all of our heart, might, mind and soul, we will pay heed to all of His admonitions, and the admonitions of those He has chosen to lead us, won't we? We can pursue this line of thought further, and bring it right down to our activities in the Church. We naturally want to do the best job we can, with nothing haphazard about it. The Lord, recognising this, gave us certain basic rules and instructions to help us do a good job. Then He told us to use our heads and do it intelligently.

“But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you: therefore, you shall feel that it is right.” (Doctrine and Covenants 9:8.)

That does not mean that we can go contrary to the Church regulations, but it means that we must use what we have intelligently. Do you see the point? In this contract we have made with the Lord, we must heed all of the clauses, and follow them. But we must think and pray, and have an intelligent understanding of these things. Take, for example, a person in a position of authority in the Church. Say he handles the temporal affairs of his branch, and, as a result, he has to keep records, handle Church moneys, and act as the agent of the mission president, and thus the agent of the Lord. If this person decides that records are not important, and does not keep them up to date, and take care of them promptly, as the Church requires,

he is defaulting on his contract and betraying the trust that has been placed in him. Or, if he is not judicious in the handling of Church affairs, and over-rides the established methods of procedure with his own ideas, the same thing applies. Of course, we all know that no person in a position of trust would ever do such a thing, but it serves us as an example.

This fulfilling of our contract is not restricted to those in positions of authority, however. It applies to every person who is a member of the Church, or investigating the Gospel. That is our responsibility and the end result of complying to these conditions is great joy and satisfaction. The Lord told us this when speaking of the Word of Wisdom:

“Given for a principle with promise, adapted to the capacity of the weak and weakest of all saints, who are or can be called saints.” (Doctrine and Covenants 89:3.)

And the final promise given for doing these things was great health, happiness and joy. The same things apply to every single commandment and regulation given to us by the Lord, and the General Authorities, everything a “principle with promise.”

Therefore, let us resolve, with the coming of this new year, to *never* be satisfied with slip-shop performances or half-hearted results. Let us do what the Lord asks us to do, with a joyful heart and an intelligent outlook, and we will reap the promised blessings therefrom. Let us fulfil our contract with the Lord to the utmost, both spiritually and temporally.

“But to be learned is good if they hearken unto the counsels of God.” (2 Nephi 9:29).

PLAN **to Progress**

in
1956

THE simple statement of the first chapter of the Book of Genesis is given credence by believers with little demur. We glibly refer to the *Plan of Salvation*, endeavouring to explain its ramifications perhaps, with but little thought for its significance in terms of what we call "groundwork". Pausing to think of the great mind behind our very existence and purpose however, surely we must approach mention of this tremendous undertaking with wondering awe.

No important venture is successfully made, nor its purpose achieved, without a plan.

A look at our own history of the restoration of the Gospel will show how well and carefully it was planned, and certainly a closer examination will reveal the Master mind. The wisely supervised preparation

of Joseph Smith, from the immature to the knowledgeable man, the gentle strengthening of his spirit and intellect, the firm reproof when the weakly flesh made mistakes, and the resulting accomplishment, are features of divine wisdom and forethought.

We read daily of ships being launched, of new ventures in commerce, of Governmental legislation in all quarters of the globe, of record trips by phenomenal aircraft, atomic advances and great forward strides in medicine.

Nothing is achieved by accident. It may appear so on occasion, when some startling discovery is announced unheralded, but, invariably, years of work, abstruse paper calculations and endless experiment have preceded the climactic result, enabling the fortunate discoverer to understand the implications of the new and latest result. And behind it all is the hand of the omniscient One.

Perhaps we have been to see a play—a musical show—a film. The picture presented to our vision and hearing is altogether pleasant and entertaining, and we are moved to exclaim so. Perhaps, if we have a

participant's mind, we are jerked into desire to act or perform—to produce—to create. In haste to satisfy this impressive urge we quickly set about the presentation of something similar.

Then is brought home to us the basic need of a plan. Then maybe we are impelled to investigate a little more closely the work that must be done before an effective result be achieved, and by doing, we learn that much preparatory work must have gone into the presentation of that satisfying entertainment we enjoyed. We may think it is easily acquired and even delude ourselves into "an anybody can do this" attitude. But, that way lies mediocrity, and there is far too much of that in the world today. A venture without a plan leads to effort without purpose, and the result cannot be success.

A newspaper headline tells us that Comet III has "broken new records". Do we realise as we read, that for years men have been working at drawing boards, designing and planning every part, every nut and bolt and screw that has gone into the making of this magnificent aeroplane? Failure in the previous machine to meet new and unknown stresses has not deterred their efforts to overcome them. They have made new plans from the ruins of the old and it would appear that success is theirs.

We read that interplanetary travel is a possibility and that astronautic science has the plans on paper—and perhaps we are inclined to scoff a little and say, "It will never come to anything!"

But, from plans grow deeds; and a deed well planned is reasonably

certain of successful accomplishment.

At the beginning of another marking in the eternity of time might we not pause a moment and consider carefully what we are about? Would it not be useful to visualise the deeds we desire to accomplish in this next year? Could we not survey the needs and plans for fulfilment?

Perhaps we feel that life is far too full and we are so used to living it thus that there is no time for planning.

This is fallacious.

It would be better to do fewer things, plan them carefully and assure ourselves of satisfactory results. Good things are not measured by quantity, but by quality. A judged appraisalment of resources available and an estimate of possibilities within limits imposed only by a novice in inaptitude (which can be overcome by *faith and works*) will give us a working plan to build upon.

Sabbath days, testimony meetings, birthdays and new years are excellent times to contemplate the future, pray, and plan.

Let us look forward, and resolve to perform, in accordance with a preconceived plan, all the deeds which fill our vision and urge our responses. Let us be sure of success. Let us plan for it!

Organise yourselves; prepare every needful thing; and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God.—Doc. & Cov., Sec. 88, v. 119.

J. P. H.

BE CREATIVE

by Eunice Gillenwater

WHEN God created the earth He stocked it with all the essentials of making a good life, but he He left the material in a raw state. He did this as a challenge to us, to set us thinking, adventuring and experimenting to better our situation. It is the adventure and the motivation that will spur us on to a more interesting life. Do it yourself. You've heard this phrase so many times, it can't always be done for you. This is no Shangri-la but your probationary period of growth and development.

You've watched little children at play, usually happy and content with whatever their environment offers. Nursery teachers have discovered that it's a waste of funds to buy complicated toys for their pupils. The average child is much happier crawling through barrels, swinging on tyres or building with big blocks or sticks. They create and meet their own challenges for the betterment of their physical and mental development.

While substituting for the fourth grade teacher at Bushey Park School, I noticed during recess how full the sand boxes were of active, happy, talkative children. I was quite surprised for I had assumed only the lower level primary children became engrossed in sand play. My curiosity led me to wander within hearing, but not near enough to be thought interfering, so I could observe their play. To my amazement they were building castles, scooping out moats, and gallant knights were riding charging steeds. All around these sand boxes are many mechanical gadgets used for play equipment and these were loaded with those children who are not so creative as to build their own challenges.

Everything has been done or invented, some will say. Nay, tis not so. You are creative many times a day in many ways. The oil is still in the ground, the electricity in the clouds, the minerals in the hills, and uncharted paths over the seas. On other interests, not all music has been sung, nor poetry dreamed, nor dramas played. All this is waiting for us, waiting for us to think, create, and produce higher perfections.

Dr. Allen Stockdale has told the story about a man in Florida who turned a miserable, old, green swamp, mosquito-infested and snake-inhabited, into a beautiful garden. A visitor was inspecting it and exclaimed: "My dear brother, what a beautiful garden you and the Lord have made from that swamp." "Yes." came back the reply, "but you should have seen it when the Lord had it by Himself."

(Continued on page 21)

THE CHOIR TOUR

by *Richard L. Evans*

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

Conference Talk, September 30th, 1955 — Friday Morning

MY BELOVED brethren and sisters :

I should like to echo from the depths of my heart this morning, that gratitude of which President McKay has so beautifully and eloquently spoken; gratitude to my Father in heaven for so much beyond my ability to mention, for the onward march of his Church and kingdom, for his goodness in the lives of all of us.

At this time I should like to express gratitude for Sister Evans and me for the privilege we have had of being witnesses of some of those glorious and significant events of which President McKay has spoken; and gratitude for the leadership of President McKay and his Counsellors, and for the association of these, my brethren, and you, my brethren and sisters.

We watched the President under a wide variety of conditions in a number of countries of Europe, in several of the great cities of the continent and of Great Britain, exchanging greetings with public officials, meeting in press conferences, attending the concerts, and participating in public receptions. He was seemingly indefatigable, always gracious, always an effective and wonderful representative of this Church and people; not sparing himself, travelling many hours and many miles sometimes to attend one of the choir concerts

under stormy and difficult conditions, getting back to his hotel in the very early hours of the morning.

I should like to echo his gratitude for the success of this tour.

I think a public confession here would not be inappropriate : Some of us, many of us, maybe most of us, had great apprehension and some reservations concerning the choir's tour. I must confess humbly, that some of us might have postponed it, and perhaps would have looked again at the commitment to do it. I must confess that as the two trains pulled us out of Salt Lake City on the evening of August 10th, I felt, if not like a lamb going to the slaughter, at least like one that was going to be shorn. But the President of the Church had committed us to it, and so we went. (I should hesitate to say this publicly, but when he sets a deadline, the seemingly impossible happens, as witness the dedication of the Swiss Temple. When you get a mixture of the quiet, purposeful stubbornness of the Scots and the Welsh, along with the courage and conviction of a prophetic calling, you have a combination which, once having been committed to a course or a great cause, is something to be reckoned with !)

Blessedly and providentially, by the combined services of a great number of able and devoted people,

many of whom the President has mentioned, and by the hand of Providence, we had a great venture in understanding, as we so characterised it before our European audiences.

I am glad that the President paid tribute to all of those to whom he paid tribute and appreciation this morning. There are many others, who could and should be mentioned, and perhaps that can be done at another time and place.

Now, to some of the highlights, briefly: The President has mentioned the reception at Greenock, Scotland, by the Provost of the city and the Bagpipe Corps, and the reception of the entire choir by the Lord Provost of Glasgow and the great audience at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall the following evening. Then we went to Manchester and to Cardiff, where the Stars and Stripes were raised over Cardiff Castle by the gracious Lord Mayor of that great city in honour of the Tabernacle Choir and its sponsoring institution, and of the country from which it came—not beneath the British flag, or any other flag, but waving there alone as we came into the city, the Stars and Stripes over Cardiff Castle, with the Lord Mayor addressing us as brothers and sisters, and giving every evidence of his feelings of sincerity in the terms in which he addressed us.

There are many other unforgettable experiences. Berlin is one of them. We presented an extra concert in the afternoon for those who came, principally from the Eastern Zone, who would neither be able to afford, nor, for the most part would be able to be present in the evening hours because of distances travelled and restrictions en-

countered. To see that audience of those from the areas which have not known some of the great privileges and blessings that we have known, to feel their spirit, to feel them wanting to be demonstrative, wanting to overflow in appreciation, and seemingly not knowing quite how to, and then melting and overflowing—it was an unforgettable experience. The audience of the evening was one quite in contrast with the refugee audience and those from eastern areas who had come in the afternoon.

The President has mentioned the temple dedication and the concerts in Switzerland, where we sang in Bern and Zürich; those in Copenhagen (an extra one being presented there by our male chorus in Tivoli Gardens, in response to public demand); the great audience in the Royal Albert Hall in London, a place of great tradition, of great prestige, sometimes of great reserve—an overflow audience there in that great hall of some seven to eight thousand people, melting, taking us into their hearts and we taking them into ours. It was a wonderful and satisfying and unforgettable experience.

Then in Paris, the final concert (not forgetting those in Amsterdam and Scheveningen in the Netherlands and in Wiesbaden, Germany, which were equally significant) where the city council and the ranking officers of the city of Paris presented medals to the principals of the choir and scrolls of commendation, not only to individuals, but also to some of us as representatives of the Church, they having also passed a special appropriation for refreshments for the entire group of six hundred in the magni-

ificent city palace where royalty has been entertained for generations. There was no honour that we knew of that the city of Paris could do for the Tabernacle Choir and the Church and the country from which they came that they did not do and extend to us.

Everywhere public officials of the countries in which we found ourselves, as well as our own diplomatic officers, and the press, and the public, were as gracious and warm and wonderful as one could ask from his own kin and countrymen. Scores—hundreds—of pictures and fair and favourable stories appeared throughout Europe in the public press; and we were on the air in many places. It seemed that virtually no doors that we had time to open were closed to us—and no hearts either, or so it seemed.

Thank God for all his blessings and mercies and for far-reaching consequences beyond our ability to estimate or to foresee.

I think the Berlin *Telegraf* summed it up in a sentence when it said in its edition immediately after the Berlin concert, "This was not only music, but the building of a human bridge." This we also felt is what it was.

Now as to two or three of the sidelights: One was the language barrier. What happened at the Tower of Babel never should have happened, but by the perverseness of men it did, and by the dispersion of men it has continued. We wrestled with it all the way, but not with so much difficulty as we might have supposed. In all places to which we went a large percentage of our audiences were bilingual and understood us without

translators. We used interpreters but in many places the reaction of the audience to the English was more immediate than the reaction to the translations which followed.

We found no insurmountable barrier of language or of geography to understanding among men. We found nothing that could prevent sincere and honest people from taking one another to the hearts of each other, in peace, in honour, and in understanding.

We found nothing to cause us to come to any conclusion except that all men are children of the Lord God, and that all are precious in his sight. We found no people that we could not love. We found no people for whom we did not come away with affection in our souls and in our hearts. We found no people for whom we did not feel a genuine, deep, and grateful friendship. Thank God for this, also—for not letting the barriers of language or of boundaries or of geography keep us from a satisfying and glorious understanding.

There were some other sidelights. We had about two-thirds of the passenger list on the s.s. *Saxonia*, on which we sailed from Montreal to Europe—some six hundred out of a passenger list of some nine hundred. I think perhaps the most frustrated man on the s.s. *Saxonia* on this trip was the bartender! (I think perhaps the next most frustrated man aboard was the steward who operated the bingo game!)

There were many incidents of humour, some of illness and difficulty, but despite fatigue, despite difficulty and sometimes discouraging conditions and a close, demanding schedule, the choir rose magnificently on every occasion

and did a marvellous and wonderful service.

I am grateful this morning in following the theme of gratitude, for the courage and conviction of President McKay in committing us to the tour, despite our fears and apprehensions. I am grateful for the favourable outcome, which is beyond our ability to estimate.

If I may be pardoned another thought or two of personal gratitude: I am grateful that my gracious wife was with us. I was proud of her performance at press conferences and public receptions and on all other occasions (as I was of Sister McKay also, and those who were with her and the President). I am grateful to have our eldest son serving among the missionaries of Europe (hundreds of whom we have met), serving in my own field of labour at precisely the age, even to the month, at which I entered the same field, some twenty-nine years ago. I am grateful for the work of all the missionaries, and the mission presidents, and all the devoted people, and for the onward achievements and progress and opportunities that are ours.

We come back not much given to boasting. We are aware of the art and culture of Europe, of its great cathedrals, of its great contributions, its great peoples, its great history, its great accomplishments, and are not so much disposed to boast of ourselves or of any physical attainments. I am not sure that we have the greatest of many things here. But of this I am sure, and of this I bear you witness this day: that we have the greatest message for mankind, the gospel of Jesus Christ restored in its fullness, and the greatest opportunity to convey

it to others that any people ever had, and the greatest responsibility upon us to do it.

God help us to do it and to meet the greatness of this responsibility.

I should like to close with a few words from the closing sentences of King Benjamin's great sermon to his people, from the Book of Mormon:

My friends and my brethren, my kindred and my people, . . .

If ye have come to a knowledge of the goodness of God, and his matchless power, and his wisdom, and his patience, and his long-suffering towards the children of men; and also, the atonement which has been prepared from the foundation of the world, that thereby salvation might come to him that should put his trust in the Lord, and should be diligent in keeping his commandments, and continue in the faith even unto the end of his life, . . .

this is the means whereby salvation cometh. And there is none other salvation save this which hath been spoken of; neither are there any conditions whereby man can be saved except the conditions which I have told you.

Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things, both in heaven and in earth; believe that he has all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth; believe that man doth not comprehend all the things which the Lord can comprehend.

And again, believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you; and now, if you believe all these things see that ye do them.

* * *

And behold, I say unto you that if ye do this ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and

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Group Leadership

AMONG the many modern and true things that can be said of Jesus, the Master Teacher, is that He was a group leader. He used this method as one of the means in establishing the reign of God in the hearts of men.

As a convenience in checking and rating our own practices as leaders of groups, we will list under successive heads some of the traits of Jesus exemplified in leading His group.

We cannot do over again what He did; the foundation is laid. But in a measure, we can do as He did.

1. First, then, His was a prepared leadership.
2. He did things that made His group believe in Him.
3. His was the leadership of companionship.
4. He engaged the members of His group in instructive conversation.
5. He individualised the members of His group. They became distinctive personalities under is tutelage. Each member was taught according to His need.
6. He gave them work to do.
7. He set them the missionary example.
8. He had a great purpose for His group.
9. He made them feel free to come to Him with their difficulties.
10. He gave them His personal blessing.
11. He asked them questions.
12. He taught them clearly the profound truths of life.
13. He took a vacation with them.
14. He put heavy responsibility upon His group members.
15. His ear was open to their suggestions.
16. He knew within Himself the thoughts of their hearts.
17. He challenged their personal loyalty.
18. He gave them the right attitude toward opposition.
19. He practiced good citizenship.
20. He and His company did not conceal their emotions from each other.
21. He laid the content of the future before them and prepared them for it.
22. He and they had an intimate bond of attachment for each other.
23. He drew His lesson material in part from incidents as they arose.
24. They ate together as friends.
25. In His leadership there was a remarkable combination of dignity and freedom.
26. He established Himself in their memories.
27. He prayed for them, also for those who should believe later through their words.
28. He provided for the members of His company when He could no longer provide for Himself.
29. He rejected the use of physical force.

By HARRISON HARREL HORNE.

THE AGE OF

IDEAS

BY BRYAN B. GARDNER

WE are living in the fabulous Age of Ideas. This is possibly the greatest age in the whole exciting history of man on this earth. Everywhere there is evidence of incredible advances, discoveries, new ideas. And this tremendous flow of man's knowledge and ingenuity has become a pattern in its present form only over the last few years. Here and now we are living in this marvellous Age of Ideas!

You walk—no, ride—down the street in the most modern of sleekly designed cars. In the larger towns the old corner grocer's shop has given way to larger, more efficient super-markets. Traditional department stores are being given a face

lift so that they emerge attractive and spotless with intriguing steel and glass store fronts. In the home there is almost always to be found some example of fascinating electronic ingenuity, perhaps in the form of a radio or television receiver, perhaps as an infra-red cooker or a tape-recorder or some other remarkable device.

All of a sudden, within the last decade or two, man's ideas have flourished and progressed at a speed which our forefathers would never have believed possible. Things are newer, brighter, cleaner, more attractive—all because of ideas being put into practice. Money is being poured into new ideas; and



successful ideas are pouring money back into the pockets of inventive people.

A successful idea comes from clear thinking along correct lines, and then putting it into practice. So many of us fail to be "successful" because we fail to complete the path of success. We *think*—but we don't *do!*

Of all the people on this earth who should be leaders in the Age of Ideas, it is the Latter-day Saints. Our Father in Heaven has blessed us, and will continue to bless us beyond our wildest imaginings—if we follow the correct principles of thinking, and then put those thoughts into practise.

Let it be added, however, that every Latter-day Saint will realise that even new ideas should be within the limits prescribed by those in authority over us. For example, there is no benefit in following up a new idea in a business if that particular business has a policy which the projected idea would contravene. And similarly, of course, in church activities we should be guided by the standards and recommendations of the church authorities, before embarking on new ideas.

Particularly at the start of the New Year each of us should become more alive to our individual possibilities. The world is at our feet,

because the Gospel is available to us with all the wisdom of God that we can bear, right at our fingertips and if we resolve to gather in as much of this wisdom as possible, using it in our daily work, then we can hardly help being successful.

Recently a young L.D.S. man qualified in his chosen profession as a psychiatrist. He decided that he would rigidly apply L.D.S. principles to his practise. Already he is the best known and most successful young psychiatrist in the United States today.

The lesson is clear. Let each of us resolve to gain greater knowledge of worthwhile things this year, and then apply the principles learned to our lives, both professionally and socially.

We can be wealthy, for wealth consists of ideas; and the terrific scope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ encompasses ideas without number. And we can apply those ideas to our daily tasks, using knowledge righteously, and so gaining wisdom.

This is the Age of Ideas. We are living in it—*now!* Are we resolved to contribute to it, to participate, to live life as we know it *should* be lived?

What ideas do *you* have for this bright New Year?

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.—James 1:22.

The District Presidents' Conference

On December 8th, 9th and 10th, the district presidents and supervising elders of the 14 districts of the British Mission gathered in London for a conference. They met with President Reiser and President Kerr and plans for the coming year were discussed.

Christian Gentlemen

JOHN F. COOK

Brother Cook passed away on November 1st, 1955

TRAVELLING in a train not so very long ago, I got into conversation, as is my wont, with a fellow passenger. I like getting people's ideas about things, about men and matters. On this occasion the subject, I am happy to relate, turned to religion. I gave my travelling companion the "right of way" on this all-absorbing theme, and listened with extreme interest to what he had to say. He was a Jew. He revealed to me that he had more than a passing interest in the New Testament, he studied it, and pronounced himself very satisfied with the moral and ethical teachings of Christ's Sermon on the Mount. But he admitted there was one thing about the varying Christian sects of the day that puzzled him—their continual bickering (to use his own words) with one another over various points of, what he called, theological dogma. He deplored their inability to apparently understand the potent words of Christ when he said: "If ye are not one, ye are not mine." I refrained from controversial comment, and then he made a remark which caused me to "sit up and take notice". He said he had met some young men who, in his opinion, were the truest Christians he had ever come into contact with. Yes, he repeated, they are real Christian Gentlemen. Then he whispered, "They call them Mormons, you know. Young men from America over here on missionary work." How my chest swelled—how proud I was to tell him I also was what the world calls a Mormon. He continued his theme—what gentlemen these young men were. So dignified, quiet, and so sincere. Never "calling" anybody, and standing up to ridicule at their street meetings on Manchester's blitzed sites.

I stopped and listened to our Missionary lads, offering the Truths of the Gospel, to the listeners on this blitzed site. I saw the opposition, and heard the heckling they received. But afterwards, I mingled with those listeners and there, among them, was my Jewish travelling companion. He had remained silent whilst listening, but now, as the meeting broke up into small controversial groups, he was busy among them, answering hecklers, and speaking up valiantly for what he called "my Christian gentlemen friends". A self-styled atheist, often present at these outdoor meetings, also expressed the thought that these men were "real Christian gentlemen", and "if ever I turn Christian, it will be the Mormon Church who'll get me".

What a proud title to have—"Christian Gentlemen". And what a proud title to earn. Yes, our Missionaries have earned that title. And in England, with its tradition of nobility, to be called a "Christian gentleman" is honour indeed. The highest honour that a tongue, lost for impressive statement, can make, the best tribute Jew and Gentile can offer.

JOHN F. COOK

CONFERENCES

Schedule of Semi-Annual District Conferences

February 5th	Birmingham	July 29th
February 12th	Bristol	August 12th
February 19th	Norwich	August 19th
February 26th	Servicemen	August 26th
March 4th	Leeds	September 2nd
March 11th	Nottingham	September 9th
March 18th	Liverpool	September 16th
March 25th	Sheffield	September 23rd
April 1st	Ireland	September 30th
April 8th	Hull	October 7th
April 15th	Newcastle	October 14th
April 22nd	Scotland	October 21st
April 29th	Manchester	October 28th
May 6th	London	November 4th
May 13th	Wales	November 11th

Missionary Christmas Conferences were held

- December 27th Wales, Bristol, Nottingham and Birmingham at Birmingham.
- December 28th Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Sheffield and Ireland at Liverpool.
- December 29th Scotland, Hull, Newcastle at Newcastle.
- December 30th Norwich and London at London.

Activity

ROBERT F. WILLIAMS

Mission Secretary

LET us briefly look at the many different organisations that are within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in which we can actively participate. But before we do, let us look at the word *Activity*.

Activity means *Ambition*, and *Ambition* is our desire to do.

Activity builds *Character*, and *Character* is our personal development.

Activity is *Example*, and *Example* has to be set by every Latter-day Saint twenty-four hours of every day.

Activity builds *Faith*, and *Faith* is the development of our belief in the Divine Truth.

Activity is showing *Friendship*, and *Friendship* is sympathy, gentleness, meekness and tenderness.

Activity is *Growth*, and *Growth* is our development in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Activity is being *Humble*, and *Humility* means being teachable.

From *Activity* comes *Leadership*, and *Leadership* is guiding, directing, teaching, all of which brings progress.

Activity is *Love*, and *Love* is a kind affection towards all.

Activity gives the opportunity to do for others.

Activity leads to *Success*, and *Success* is the attainment of our objectives in life.

Activity builds *Testimony*.

We prepare ourselves by being *Active*.

How can we be active? What organisations are there in which we can participate?

Does the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints offer opportunities to be active? Your answer lies in the great Missionary System that is spread throughout the world, The Priesthood Quorums, The Sunday

brings Happiness

School, The Mutual Improvement Association, The Relief Society, The Primary, The Genealogical Committees and The Fireside Programmes.

As members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints we are all Missionaries. Do you live the Gospel each day? Does your next-door neighbour have a *Book of Mormon*? Do you set the Latter-day Saint example before all?

Are you active in your Priesthood Quorums? Do you visit and develop inactive members? Do you show love and affection towards them. Are you seeing that all the children in Sunday School benefit from the sweet spirit there?

Are you interested and do you show love towards non-members? Are you holding Investigators Classes and inviting Investigators to your Mutual Improvement Association functions? Do your friends and acquaintances know of the spiritual and cultural aspects of the Relief Society? Are your Primary programmes so outstanding that *all* children would want to attend and participate? Do you realise the importance of Genealogical work? Are you having Fireside each week, and are the programmes interesting? Have you organised a Choir or Singing Group within your Branch and District?

With the drawing of the New Year and the arrival of our new British Mission President, Clifton G. M. Kerr, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints needs you, not only as a faithful member but as an ACTIVE member. What marvellous opportunities we do have. Let us all take advantage of every chance we have to serve and take part in the furtherance of the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Now behold, a marvellous work is about to come forth among the children of men.

“Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day.”

(Doctrine and Covenants 4:1-2.)

ATTENTION ELDERS QUORUMS

*Chronology of Important Events
in the "Divine Church I, II and III"
by James L. Barker.*

References:

The New Testament; "1953 Summaries", D. M. Halliday; Volume III, pages 299-305, Chronology, Halliday; and "1954 Summaries", Halliday.

THE DIVINE CHURCH

A.D.

- Jesus born in Bethlehem (*Matthew 2:1*).
- 27 Christ baptized by John (the Baptist) in Jordan (*Matthew 3:13-17*).
- 31 Christ calleth some disciples—Peter, Andrew, James and John (*Matthew 4:18, 21*).
- 31–33 CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST and 12 Disciples—Apostles (*Matthew 5*) (3 *Nephi*, 12).
- 33 Christ's Ascension (*Acts 1:9*).
- 33 First Council of Jerusalem—Mathias chosen (Replaced Judas) (*Acts 1:26*).
- 52 Second Council of Jerusalem—Apostles settle dispute (of Antiochians) (*Acts 15*).
- 100 John, the last Apostle disappears.
- 100 *REVELATION ceases.*
- * * * * *
- The Apostolic Fathers—Bishops by Apostolic Authority (*Lesson III, Vol. I*).
- 100 Clement of Rome (*See pp. 23, 24*).
- 110 Ignatius of Antioch (*See pp. 24, 25*).
- 155 Polycarp of Smyrna (*See pp. 25, 26*).
- * * * * *
- The Apologists.* Defenders of Christian Religion (*Lesson IV, Vol. I*).
- 202 Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, France (*See p. 31*).
- 258 St. Cyprian; Bishop of Carthage—"Papa" of Africa (*See p. 28*).
- 257 Stephen I, Bishop of Rome—Upholds *BAPTISM WITHOUT AUTHORITY* (*Lesson XXVII, Vol. I*).
- * * * * *

Christian Creeds Influenced by Pagan Philosophy

B.C.

- 427–347 *Plato*—Greek Philosopher—"The greatest thinker." (Webster).
- 384–322 *Aristotle*—Greek Philosopher—"The greatest thinker." (Webster).

A.D.

- 100, Justin Martyr, first of the Church Fathers who sought to reconcile
110(?) philosophy and Christianity (*See p. 29, Vol. I*).
- 205–270 *Plotinus*—Chief Philosopher, Alexandria (Egypt) School of *Neo-Platonists*.
Neo-Platonism attempted to reconcile Plato's and Aristotle's views with Christian beliefs of God.
"A religion made up of the philosophies of men mingled with the scriptures."
The early Christians were without written scriptures.

200-300 Orthodox Christian doctrine mostly has its origin in the middle of the 3rd century.

The most learned leaders and writers of the early Christian era were philosophers. *Christians were in the minority.*

Other difficulties of the early Christians were: *The Hebrew Religion, the Mystery Religions and the Pagan Ceremonials.*

THE HUMAN CHURCH

- A.D.
- 313 Edict of Milan—Constantine “legalises Christianity”.
- 314 Council of Arles, France—*upholds baptism without authority.*
- 325 Constantine “calls” Council of Nicea—the First Ecumenical—The Nicene Creed—“*Relation of the Son to the Father*”.
- 327 Emperor Constantine is baptized by Bishop Eusebius—and soon after dies.
- 381 Emperor Theodosius “calls” the Second Ecumenical Council (Constantinople—“the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Ghost,” “inserted”: 1, Unity, 2, Sanctity, 3, Catholicity and 4, Apostolicity “in the Nicene Creed”).
- 354-430 Augustine laid the foundation for Western Theology—Founder and Creator to the 13th century. *Augustinianism* is with us today. Augustine followed a Platonic method of thinking. Augustine regarded Plato as a demi-god; he was called the Christian Plato.
- 431 Council of Ephesus—Third Ecumenical—called by Emperors Theodosius II and Valentinian III—“A Council of Conflicts”—Triumph of “*ONE NATURE*”.
- 449 Council of Ephesus—“*Robber Council*”, said Bishop Leo, of Rome.
- 451 Council of Chalcedon—Fourth Ecumenical—called by Emperor Marcian—Victory of “*TWO NATURES*”.
- 476 Fall of the Roman Empire—as a result of weakness and corruption. *Constantinople is now the seat of Empire.*
- 527 Justinian the Great becomes emperor—“*Unity of religion* was necessary for *unity of Empire*”.
- 529 Council of Orange—Final defeat of Pelagianism (Augustine against Pelagius, 400-418).
- 529 Justinian publishes the *Code of the Roman Law—Civil Code—Religious Code*. It becomes the basis of the Civil Law in civilised nations.
- 553 Proclaimed: *Dominion of Empire over Church.*
- 553 Fifth Ecumenical Council (2nd Constantinople). *Justinian the Great dictates the Doctrines of the Church.*
- 621 Edict of Emperor Heraclius—“*Profession of Faith*” (the Ecthesis).
- 648 Emperor Constans II issues a new decree—the *Typos—imposing silence.*
- 668 Emperor Constans IV suppresses the *Typos.*
- 680 Constans IV calls the Sixth Ecumenical Council (3rd Constantinople). “Two Natures” and “Two Wills” now the *doctrine of the Church.*
- 871 Alfred the Great, King of England, begins development of law learning.
- 988 Vladimir the Great of Russia becomes a Convert of Christianity.
- 1054 Rome excommunicated Constantinople—Constantinople excommunicated Rome.

- 1059 A new papal decree on elections was issued. The pope to be chosen by the College of Cardinals—Sacred College—Composed of 70 Cardinals—with pope as president.
- 1066 William the Conqueror—King of England—the Norman Conquest.
- 1215 King John of England forced to sign Magna Charta (the Great Charter)—the beginning of constitutional freedom. The pope declares it null and void.
- 1243- Innocent IV attempted to achieve absolute papal domination.
- 1254
- 1300 Beginning of the *Renaissance—Revival of Learning*.
- 1379 Wyclif attacks most of the claims of the papacy.
- 1382 Wyclif completes the translation of the Bible into English.
- 1401 English parliament decrees burning of heretics.
- 1410 Pope Alexander V ordered the burning of Wyclif's writings.
- 1416 John Huss, disciple of Wyclif, chained by the neck and burned at the stake.
- 1450 *Invention of printing by Gutenberg*.
- 1452 Great exodus by Greek scholars from Constantinople.
- 1492 *Discovery of America*.
- 1520 Luther excommunicated by the pope.
- 1525 Zwingli's work as a reformer was concluded.
- 1530 *Protestant Confession of Faith (Augsberg)*.
- 1534 England renounces the sovereignty of the Pope.
- 1535 Henry VIII proclaimed Supreme Head of the Church of England.
Note: Joseph Smith says the Protestant religions are greatly indebted to Henry VIII for establishing the protestant faith (See pp. 64, 65, "1954 Summaries").
- 1536 Calvin publishes: "*Institutes of the Christian Religion*".
- 1559 John Knox preaches the Reformation in Scotland.
- 1607 Jamestown, Virginia—First English settlement in America.
- 1610 King James version of the Bible in English language completed.
- 1636 Providence founded by Roger Williams—*expelled from Massachusetts*.
- 1776 Declaration of Independence.
- 1787 September 17th, Adoption of the Constitution of the United States by Convention. Adopted by 9 states on June 21st, 1788.
- 1792 March 1st, Bill of Rights certified by Secretary of State (*Thomas Jefferson*).
- 1805 December 23rd—Birth of Joseph Smith.
- 1854 December 8th, The dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Holy Virgin.
Note: The Immaculate Conception means that *Mary, the Mother of Christ*, was preserved by God from all taint of "original sin" (*Augustine*). It is not to be confused by the *Virgin Birth of Christ*.
- 1870 July 18th, Council of the Vatican recognised "*papal infallibility*".
"The decisions of the Council made of the Church an absolute elective monarchy." (*Catholic writer*).

The Divine Church Restored, IV

Roy A. Welker

THE RESTORED CHURCH

A.D.

- 1820 The First Vision (See Lesson 11).
- 1823 September 21st, The Angel Moroni appears to Joseph Smith (Lesson 11).

- 1827 September 22nd, The Angel Moroni's 4th annual visit to Joseph Smith. Joseph receives the plates, the Urim and Thummin. (*Lesson 11*).
- 1827 December, Joseph begins translation of the Book of Mormon (*Lesson 12*).
- 1829 May 15th, *Aaronic Priesthood restored. Beginning of the Restoration* (*Lesson 13*).
Joseph baptizes Oliver and Oliver baptizes Joseph (*Lesson 15*).
- 1829 June—the *Melchizedek Priesthood restored* (*Lesson 14, 24*).
- 1820-1829 Preparation of Joseph Smith for his part in the Restoration (*Lessons 12, 13, 14*).
- 1830 Book of Mormon published—1879—Divided into chapters and verses with references by Orson Pratt (*See title pages*).
- 1830 Organisation of the Church (Restored). 6 members (*Lesson 16*).
- 1830 "Indispensability of baptism in the way prescribed and through the authority given by the Lord" (*See D. & C., Section 22*) (*Lessons 22, 23*).
- 1831 *Law of Consecration* (*D. & C., 42:30, 32, 71; 51:5; 58:36; 70:8; 85:3*).
- 1835 Organisation of the Quorum of the Twelve (*D. & C., 18:37-47*).
- 1836 April 3rd, Personal manifestations of the Lord Jesus Christ, His acceptance of the Kirtland Temple. Visitations of Moses, Elias and Elijah. (*D. & C., 110*).
- 1844 *Martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph Smith.*

* * * * *

Prepared by DAVID M. HALLIDAY, Teacher of the High Priest Group, Bryan Ward, Sugar House Stake.

BE CREATIVE (*Continued*)

The supreme creative tasks come when you deal with human beings. Being a teacher of the primary grades makes one extremely conscious of the importance of proper patterns for youth. Such is the task of all our Church teachers—to be creative in your approach and methods of teaching the gospel plan. The task of the missionaries is to create means of aiding an individual to find his true worth.

Another creative facet is expressed in the following poem:

"Building a Temple"

A builder builded a temple, he wrought it with grace and skill.
Pillars and groins and arches all fashioned to work his will.
Men said, as they saw its beauty, it shall never know decay.
Great is thy skill, O Builder, thy fame shall endure for aye.
A mother builded a temple, with loving and infinite care,
Planning each arch with patience, laying each stone with a prayer.
None praised her unceasing efforts, none knew of her wondrous plan,
For the temple the mother builded was unseen by the eyes of man,
Gone is the builder's temple, crumbled into dust.
Low lies each stately pillar, food for oncoming rust.
But the temple the mother builded will last until the ages roll,
For that beautiful unseen temple, is the child's immortal soul.

Author Unknown

Nation Against Nation

Through scriptural testimony and that of the Lord's leaders, we are aware of the power of God beginning to fall upon the nations of the earth.

Full of Calamity

NOW in regard to the calamities that have been taking place, if you have been reading the papers during the last three or four years you have discovered that this world we are living in is full of calamity. You have been reading in your papers of the terrible distress, plague and famine that have been taking hold of some sections of this world. Over in China and various other parts, they have been dying by the thousands. If you have been reading your papers you have discovered—and it is true because I am a witness of some of this myself: I have seen some of it—these countries that have been overrun by the German army have been robbed of practically everything they possess. The German trains, the German trucks have gone in and taken away the food supplies from these people and left them to do the best they can. So there is distress, and the people have not fuel to keep themselves warm in these countries. They have not food enough to eat, and they are dying by the thousands.

This that I call attention to is in *Time* of October 26th, 1942. I just want to call attention to one or two things written here: "The mortality among children in Belgium is now as bad, if not worse than in Greece." And we learned, and so it states here, that they are dying at the rate

of 500 a day with starvation in Greece. Starving to death. They have been robbed of everything, and all the time they were trying to mind their own business. In Warsaw—that is, in Poland—"The Germans have left only black crusts of bread for Poles and there is no longer bigos brewed of wild game and cabbage." That is in Poland. In Greece there is no clothing for children, no fuel for winter. The death rate from starvation is at least 500 a day. What did I say? 500 a day!

Now, like conditions are in various parts of the world. These occupied countries are in that condition. Don't you think that President Woodruff was right and that the calamities are sweeping over the earth?

Modern Prophecy

Now, let us turn to some modern prophecy. This is from the Prophet Joseph Smith:

"The plain fact is this, the power of God begins to fall upon the nations . . . and the nations of the Gentiles are like the waves of the sea, casting up mire and dirt, are all in commotion, and they are hastily preparing to act the part allotted them, when the Lord rebukes the nations, when He shall rule them with a rod of iron, and break them in pieces like a potter's vessel. The

Lord declared to His servants some eighteen months since, that He was then withdrawing His Spirit from the earth"—and I read that passage to you tonight from Section 63 of the Doctrine of the Covenants—"and we can see that such is the fact, for not only the churches are dwindling away, but there are no conversions, or but very few; and this is not all, the governments of the earth are thrown into confusion and division; and destruction, to the eye of the spiritual beholder, seems to be written by the finger of an invisible hand, in large capitals, upon almost everything we behold.

"You must make yourselves acquainted with those men who like Daniel pray three times a day toward the House of the Lord. Look to the Presidency and receive instruction. Every man who is afraid, covetous, will be taken in a snare. The time is soon coming, when no man will have any peace but in Zion and her stakes."

Quotes Joseph Smith

I wish I had time to read all I have here. This is also from the Prophet. You want the references. You will find that in the *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, pages 11 and 12.

"I saw men hunting the lives of their own sons, and brother murdering brother, women killing their own daughters, and daughters seeking the lives of their mothers. I saw armies arrayed against armies. I saw blood, desolation, fires. The Son of Man has said that the mother shall be against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother. These things are at our doors. They will follow the Saints of God from city to city. Satan will rage, and the spirit of the devil is

now enraged. I know not how soon these things will take place; but with a view of them, shall I cry peace? No! I will lift up my voice and testify of them. How long you will have crops, and the famine be kept off, I do not know; when the fig tree leaves, know then that summer is nigh at hand."

You will find that in the *Teachings* on page 161.

Now, let me make a comment here.

President Wilford Woodruff and the Prophet Joseph Smith declare that it was their duty and should be the duty of every righteous man to raise the warning voice and proclaim the fact that these calamities are at our doors, and I have been condemned because I have done that. I heard one good man say, "There are too many good things to think about without talking about these troubles, these plagues, or worrying about the coming of the Lord." Here is what the Lord says in Section 45 of the Doctrine and Covenants, verses 39 to 43.

"And it shall come to pass that he that feareth me shall be looking forth for the great day of the Lord to come, even for the signs of the coming of the Son of Man.

"And they shall see signs and wonders, for they shall be shown forth in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath.

"And they shall behold blood, and fire, vapours of smoke.

"And before the day of the Lord shall come, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon be turned into blood, and the stars fall from heaven.

"And the remnant shall be gathered unto this place." That is, the Jews to Jerusalem.

Claims Justification

Now, when the Lord says that, don't you think I am justified in raising my voice and do you think I am doing wrong when I am looking forward to the coming of Christ, and watching the signs of the times and these calamities and troubles that are coming? Am I doing wrong? And yet one good brother said that. Too many things to do. We haven't time to worry about the coming of Christ. I hope he is here.

Now, here is something from President Brigham Young.

“Do you think there is calamity abroad now among the people? . . . All we have yet heard and all we have experienced is scarcely a preface to the sermon that is going to be preached. When the testimony of the Elders ceases to be given, and the Lord says to them, ‘come home; I will now preach My own sermons to the nations of the earth’, all you now know can scarcely be called a preface to the sermon that will be preached with fire and sword, tempests, earthquakes, hail, rain, thunders, and lightnings and fearful destruction. What matters the destruction of a few railway cars? You will hear of magnificent cities, now idolized by the people, sinking in the earth, entombing the inhabitants. The sea will heave itself beyond its bounds, engulfing mighty cities. Famine will spread over the nations, and nation will rise up against nation, kingdom against kingdom, and states against states, in our own country and in foreign lands; and they will destroy each other, caring not for the blood and lives of their neighbours, of their families, or for their own lives. They will be like the Jaredites who preceded the Nephites upon this continent, and will destroy each other

to the last man, through the anger that the devil will place in their hearts, because they have rejected the words of life and are given over to Satan to do whatever he listeth to do with them. You may think that the little you hear of now is grievous; yet the faithful of God's people will see days that will cause them to close their eyes because of the sorrow that will come upon the wicked nations. The hearts of the faithful will be filled with pain and anguish for them.”

Quotes Early Leader

I don't know whether I can take time to read more of this or not. That depends upon you. Here is one by President Jedediah M. Grant

“We see it in the revolutions of our own continent; we see it in the scattering and scourging of the house of Israel; in the fading away of nations on the right and on the left . . . We see it in the preparations of war, and the framing of treaties of peace among strong nations. The world is in commotion and the hearts of men fail them for fear of the impending storm that threatens to enshroud all nations in its black mantle. Treaties of peace may be made, and war will stop for a season, but there are certain decrees of God, and certain bounds fixed, and laws and edicts passed by the high courts of heaven beyond which the nations cannot pass; and when the Almighty decrees the wicked shall slay the wicked, strong nations may interfere, peace conventions may become rife in the world and exert their influence to sheath the sword of war, and make treaties of peace to calm the troubled surface of all Europe, to no effect; the war cloud is still booming o'er the heavens, darkening the

earth, and threatening the world with desolation.

“This is a fact that Saints have known for many years—that the Gods in yonder heavens have something to do with these revolutions; the angels, those holy beings who are sent from the heavens to the earth to minister in the destiny of nations, have something to do in these mighty revolutions and convulsions that shake creation almost to its centre.”

Nation Against Nation

I read to you what one wise man said here in one of the talks not long ago, that he would keep God out of this, and Jedediah M. Grant says that the Lord and His angels are pretty much in it. To continue the quotation:

“Consequently, when we see nation stirred up against nation, and on the other hand see other nations exerting a powerful influence to bring about negotiations of peace, shall we say they can bring it about? Do we expect they can stay the onward course of war? The Prophet of God has spoken it all, and we expect to see the work go on—and see all things fulfilled as the prophets have declared by the spirit of prophecy in them.

“Three days before the Prophet Joseph started for Carthage, I well

remember his telling us we should see the fulfilment of the words of Jesus upon the earth, where He says the father shall be against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother-in-law against the daughter-in-law, and the daughter-in-law against the mother-in-law; and when a man's enemies shall be those of his own household.

“The prophet stood in his own house when he told several of us the night the visions of heaven were opened to him, in which he saw the American continent drenched in blood, and he saw nation rising against nation. He also saw the father shed the blood of the son, and the son the blood of the father; the mother put to death the daughter, and the daughter the mother; and natural affection forsook the hearts of the wicked; for he saw that the Spirit of God should be withdrawn from the inhabitants of the earth, in consequence of which there should be blood upon the face of the whole earth, except among the people of the Most High. The Prophet gazed upon the scene his vision presented, until his heart sickened and he besought the Lord to close it up again.” *Journal of Discourses*, Volume 2, pages 146 and 147.

THE CHOIR TOUR (Continued)

always retain a remission of your sins; and ye shall grow in the knowledge of the glory of him that created you, or in the knowledge of that which is just and true. (Mos. 4: 4, 6, 8-10, 12.)

God help us to have the courage and the wisdom to be what we

should be, to live as we should live, to do what we should do, and to arise to the greatest message to mankind and to the greatest opportunity and responsibility that is ours, to deliver it, I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES

ARRIVALS:

November 8, 1955

Sister Ruth Butler
Sister Marjorie Pearl Fyffe
Elder Milton William Hammond
Elder Clarence John James Mason
Elder Richard Lyman Robbins
Elder Kenneth Dwaine Thompson
Elder Charles Richard Wright

From
Jerome, Idaho
Central, Arizona
Las Vegas, Nevada
Salt Lake City, Utah
Springville, Utah
Jerome, Idaho
Salt Lake City, Utah

Assigned to
Hull
Wales
Newcastle
Manchester
Birmingham
Liverpool
London

November 22, 1955

Sister Joyce Lundgreen
Sister Patty Lou Reed
Elder Kay Henrie Christensen
Elder Ted Miller Davis
Elder Sylvan Ferry Seely

Ogden, Utah
Glendale, California
Ephraim, Utah
St. Anthony, Idaho
St. Anthony, Idaho

London Office
London Office
Ireland
London
Wales

December 6, 1955

Elder Arthur R. Bassett
Elder Stephen G. McNeil

St. Anthony, Idaho
Portland, Oregon

Wales
Nottingham

TRANSFERS:

Elder Robert Clyde Rasmussen
Elder Ronald J. Clark
Elder Merrill D. Hone
Elder Aaron B. Jeppson
Elder Roy P. Hill
Sister Muriel Jones
Elder Darwin S. Martell
Elder Albert Neff Smith
Elder Stanley Kay Goold
Sister Beverley Jean Lancaster
Elder Glen P. Alger
Elder Edwin B. Firmage
Elder Kenneth Stirland
Elder Tracy W. Tucker
Elder Nephi R. Newbold

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
Hull	Birmingham
Nottingham	Newcastle
Bristol	Hull
Bristol	Hull
London	Hull
Wales	Hull
Nottingham	Newcastle
Nottingham	Birmingham
Wales	Hull
London Office	Scotland
Liverpool	Leeds
Leeds	Scotland
London Office	Liverpool
Hull	Norwich
Norwich	Hull

Date Effective
October 17, 1955
October 28, 1955
November 3, 1955
November 3, 1955
November 10, 1955
November 10, 1955
November 10, 1955
November 10, 1955
November 25, 1955
November 26, 1955
November 28, 1955
November 28, 1955
November 28, 1955
December 1, 1955
December 1, 1955

RELEASES:

December 28, 1955

Elder Lawrence Glenn Handy

From
San Diego, California

Served in
Newcastle, Scottish, London and
Bristol Districts

Elder Lawrence Glenn Handy



BAPTISMS:

Birmingham District

John Thomas Bombroffe of Coventry-Rugby
Violete May Bombroffe of Coventry-Rugby
Dorothy Ivy Maddams of Birmingham
Shelia Blackham of Birmingham

Janet McCabe of York
Peter Denis Witherley of York
Christine Patricia Lamb of York

Leeds District

Frank Crowther of Huddersfield
Jeffrey Crowther of Huddersfield
Valerie Marion Crowther of Huddersfield

Bristol District

William Peter Angel of Stroud
Rita Marie Bennet Kaeo of Stroud

Hull District

Albert Edward Coulman of Hull
Minnie Ronson of Hull
Dorothy Harmon of Hull
Hillary Patricia Gaunt of Grimsby
Reginald Gaunt of Grimsby
David Horwell of York

Liverpool District

Roderick Arthur Henry Baldwin of Liverpool
Anita Mary Goulding of Wigan
Neil Griffin of Liverpool
Lillian Walkden of Liverpool
Cyril George Walkden of Liverpool
Janini Marie Lewicki of Southport

London District

Carol Ann Dix of South London
 John Britton Taverner of South London
 Janice Lavender of Luton
 Maurice Arthur Lavender of Luton
 Pauline Lavender of Luton

Manchester District

Lynda Barbara Bates of Wythenshawe
 Stephan Robert Cook of Ashton-Hyde
 Brian Page of Ashton-Hyde

Newcastle District

David John Curryer

Norwich District

John Arthur William Steele of Colchester
 John Alan Trevor of Ipswich

Nottingham District

Genie McIntock Shepard of Leicester
 Mary Wood of Derby
 Lionel Charles Wooster of Nottingham
 Joan Evelyn Wooster of Nottingham

Sheffield District

James William Hatfield of Barnsley
 Mary Hatfield of Barnsley
 James Michael Hatfield of Barnsley
 George Hatfield of Barnsley
 Alan Daniels of Doncaster
 Robert Clough of Doncaster
 Coral Rosemary Sillence of Doncaster

Scottish District

Agnes Wilson Thomson of Paisley
 Christina Richardson of Dundee
 James West of Edinburgh

BRITISH MISSION

Branch and District Activities

Hull

A farewell social was held in the *Hull Branch* November 22nd in honour of Elders Durrant and Blair. Both were presented with an Irish linen tablecloth as a token of esteem for the work they have done.

On November 26th the Priesthood of the Hull Branch sponsored a social to help the building fund. Several good items were given while dancing and refreshments enabled all to participate.

A jumble sale was held in the *Scarborough Branch*, November 23rd. Proceeds were divided between the Relief Society and general Branch funds.

Relief Society sisters of the *York Branch* held a social November 22nd and put the proceeds towards the fund for the Children's Christmas party.

Norwich

Norwich Branch Relief Society held their annual Christmas Bazaar on Wednesday, November 30th. The stalls were set out very attractively and looked colourful and bright with a large variety of sewed,

knitted and crocheted handicrafts. The refreshment booth proved as popular as ever.

Lowestoft Branch held their bazaar on Saturday, December 3rd. From fifty willing people in attendance the sum of £23 was raised.

Chelmsford Branch Relief Society held a bazaar and rummage sale November 19th. It was quite well attended and a substantial sum was added to the funds. Refreshments were served buffet style and members of the Priesthood rounded off the evening with an entertaining programme. Those in attendance generally acclaimed this a most successful and enjoyable day.

Leeds

After a period in abeyance the Primary of the *Bradford Branch* has again renewed active life under the leadership of Sister Ellen Coates. They held a party on November 2nd when twelve children and six mothers were present and parking, toffee, games and fireworks were enjoyed by all.

Leeds Branch held their annual bazaar on Saturday, November 19th. Members and friends crowd-

ed the stalls on which a great variety of goods were displayed. These quickly disappeared however and the sisters were well satisfied with the fruits of their labours. Combined effort by the M.I.A. and Priesthood provided the entertainment for the social which followed, this comprising musical items by the newly-formed Harmonica band in the Branch, humorous sketches and a play by the Bee-hive girls. The brethren were particularly amusing in giving their impression of Relief Society work night.

On Thursday, November 24th, a Welfare social was held in the Branch and members and friends paid for admission in the form of something for the Welfare Store Cupboard. Fun and games were enjoyed by all.

Sheffield

Doncaster Branch held their bazaar November 19th and it proved a successful climax to a year of hard preparation by the sisters. The sale

was very gratifying however and they felt rewarded for their work. A stage show presented by the sisters rounded off the day.

Sheffield Branch Relief Society held a Viennese Fair on November 19th in the Sheffield chapel. The sisters serving on the gaily decorated stalls were dressed in colourful costumes and following the sale the buyers were entertained with a production, "The Gypsies' Holiday". The general impression gained: It was hard work, but it was fun—and it pays!

Barnsley sisters held their bazaar on December 3rd and benefited greatly from their efforts. They are few in number but the results more than justified the effort made.

London

Newchapel Branch held their bazaar November 26th. It was their first effort in this direction and many varied and most useful purchases were made. President A. Hamer Reiser and Sister Elaine

People to whom certificates for the British Mission Speaking/Teaching Course have been given:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Branch</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Certificate sent</i>
Vernon Leroy Fritz	Peterborough	Norwich	December 5th
Doris Fritz	Peterborough	Norwich	December 5th
Barbara Irene Guscott	Peterborough	Norwich	December 5th
Cecil John Guscott	Peterborough	Norwich	December 5th
Josephine Winifred Overton	Peterborough	Norwich	December 5th
Ethel May Saville	Peterborough	Norwich	December 5th
Reginald Arthur William Saville	Peterborough	Norwich	December 5th
Gladys Elizabeth Williams	Peterborough	Norwich	December 5th
Cyril Wilson	Peterborough	Norwich	December 5th
Alice Eileen Wilson	Peterborough	Norwich	December 5th
Ernest Draper	York	Hull	December 12th
John James McCabe	York	Hull	December 12th
Daisy Roberts	York	Hull	December 12th
Wilfred Roberts	York	Hull	December 12th
Paul Sayner	York	Hull	December 12th
Rachel Mary Speck	York	Hull	December 12th
Jean Turver	York	Hull	December 12th
Reginald Turver	York	Hull	December 12th
Leslie Winnard	York	Hull	December 12th

Reiser attended with Sister Maud Hawkes of the Relief Society Board. A surprise item followed the function in the form of a three-course dinner served by the Relief Society Presidency in the Branch. It was particularly English in composition and consisted of steak and kidney pie, peas and potatoes, followed by trifle and cheese and biscuits. The evening was completed with a social and dance and the Relief Society funds were greatly augmented.

On December 6th a musical "Television" programme was presented in the Branch. It was entitled: "Voice of the World at Christmas" and was much enjoyed by members and friends.

A sale of work and social was held in the *Brighton Branch* on Saturday, November 26th. Some sixty people attended enabling the Relief Society to profit by a tidy

President Morgan Bates of the London District wishing President A. Hamer Reiser and Sister Elaine Reiser farewell, at Ravenslea, London.



sum. It was under the direction of Sister Faith Mitchell, Relief Society President.

Due to the sterling efforts of Elder Alex Amphill, Group Leader in the 5th Quorum of Elders, the Quorum benefited to the extent of more than £10 from a dance held on November 12th for the London Section of the Quorum. The South London Branch recreation hall was overcrowded for dancing, but a lively spirit prevailed and all enjoyed the entertaining fraternity. Special item of the evening was a mimed presentation of "Whip-crack-a-way on the Deadwood Stage" by Geneva Bates and her brother Daniel.

Nottingham

The *Loughborough Branch* Relief Society increased their funds from the proceeds of a very successful bazaar, which was well supported by neighbouring branches. (We should have liked more details.)

Derby Branch held a very successful bazaar November 19th. It was well attended and the stallholders were kept very busy. A mock auction was conducted by Elder David W. Wright, and the Priesthood stall realised £3 which was put towards the children's prizes in Sunday School.

Scottish

Aberdeen Branch held a Jumble Sale on Saturday, November 26th. £10 was realised and will go to the Children's Christmas party fund.

Brother Alistair Smith has replaced Brother Joseph Coull as Superintendent of the Branch Sunday School since Brother Coull has left to do his National Service.

Manchester

Wythenshawe Branch held their bazaar on Saturday, November

26th, which netted a total of £5 10s.

The Primary concert held in the Wythenshawe Branch, December 3rd, was an outstanding success under the able leadership of Sister Margaret Corbishley, Primary Mother, assisted by Sister Hilda Graham. It opened with a miniature ballet, "The Wedding of the Painted Doll", performed by Sister J. Clarke, Margaret Wattleworth, Robert Graham, Lynn Caddick and Pat Corbishley. Solo tap dancing was by Linda Pennington and Linda Bates gave an exhibition of ballet. A play, "Cruel Jack Frost", completed the evening's entertainment.

Birmingham

Rugby Branch held their first jumble sale on November 26th under the direction of Sister Woodward. Proceeds went to the budget fund and almost £10 was the result of successful effort and co-operation.

Irish

To raise money for their children's Christmas party the *Belfast Branch* Sunday School held a dance in the North Belfast Harriers Hall on November 11th. Archie Quinn and his Quartette provided the music, and once again Brother Joseph Ditty Jr. acted as M.C. It proved a splendid evening for all.

The *Belfast and Bangor Relief Society* united with the *Belfast Primary* in the holding of a jumble sale on December 2nd. Although it was not supported quite as well as had been expected the funds benefited and the event can be marked "successful".

M.I.A. officers of the Branch held a film show on December 3rd. The slides were shown by Brother Terence Dawson and consisted of

shots taken at the dedication of the Swiss Temple. All, including several friends present, were impressed with the beauty of the building and its surroundings.

Liverpool

On Saturday, November 26th, *Accrington Branch* Relief Society held a social which included a potato pie supper preceded by a fancy-hat parade with a prize for the winner. Songs and sketches were also presented and dancing rounded off a successful evening.

Elder John Bullock has been appointed President of the Branch in Accrington. Elder Bullock and his wife are serving a mission here having spent some years in U.S.A. after emigrating from the London District.

Personals

Births and Blessings

Barratt. The grandchildren of Sister Elsie Emery of Northampton were blessed September 4th, 1955. Paul Frederick Barratt was blessed by Elder Derek W. Roughton, and Ralph Thomas Barratt by Elder Clarence G. Taylor Jr.

Siddall. A daughter was born to Sister and Brother Harold Siddall of the Chesterfield Branch on August 5th. The child was blessed by Elder Ronald Nielson, October 9th, and given the name of Susan.

Bradley. A daughter was born to Sister and Brother Ronald S. Bradley of the Chesterfield Branch on May 29th. The child was blessed by Elder Spencer W. Kimball on July 16th and given the names of Hannah Elizabeth.

Adams. A son was born to Sister and Brother D. Saville Adams of Scarborough on November 13th. The child was blessed on December

4th by President Reynolds and given the names of Graham Peter. Blessings were also given by President E. Reynolds to Paul David Adams, Stephen Adams, Janet Dixon Gummer and David Alan Gummer.

Coyne. The infant son of Brother and Sister W. Coyne was blessed and given the name of Andrew on November 6th by President Reynolds in Scarborough. Susan Ivy Staniforth was also given a blessing on that day.

Holden. Brother and Sister John Holden of the Belfast Branch received the blessing of a baby girl on Wednesday, November 30th.

Clement. The infant daughters of Sister and Brother Clement, of the U.S. Forces, were blessed November 6th viz.: Debra Marie Annette by Elder Vaughan Wixen, and Felicite Angelique by Elder William S. Sleeper.

Sherlock. The children of Brother and Sister Gordon Sherlock were given blessings on November 6th viz.: James Ronald by Brother Gordon Sherlock, and Robert Edward by Elder David William Wright.

Wilson. The children of James F. Wilson and Clarice Brenda Wilson were given blessings on November 6th viz.: Yvonne Wilson by Elder K. R. Howes, and Linda Kathleen Wilson by Elder Benjamin Cooper.

Bala. Charles Thomas Bala was given a blessing by Elder Gary Ray Bascomb, December 4th.

Bridges. David Bridges was given a blessing by Elder Benjamin Cooper on December 4th.

Kewley. A daughter was born to Sister and Brother Henry Kewley of the Newchapel Branch on September 17th. The child was blessed

by her father on October 30th and given the names of Christine Blackie.

Caddick. The infant daughter of Brother and Sister Caddick, born October 15th, was blessed on November 6th by Elder C. Smith Sumner and given the names of Beverley Ann.

Anderson. On October 2nd the three children of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Anderson were given blessings. Marguerite Denise, by Elder Boyd Hoggan; Jacqueline Sandra by Elder Lawrence Handy; Graham James by Elder Henry Summersell; all of the Bournemouth Branch.

Marriages

Shuttleworth - Dibb. Some six months ago Elder Tom Dibb, of Draper, Utah, returned to his native Yorkshire to gather genealogy. Here he met again Sister Bertha Shuttleworth whom he had known more than forty years ago. The friendship was cordially renewed and resulted in the marriage of these two people on November 9th. The ceremony took place in the Bradford chapel under the direction of District President Shreeve.

Deaths

Ackroyd. On November 11th, Bradford's oldest sister of the Church, in age and membership, passed peacefully away in sleep. She was 99 years of age and joined the Church as a girl. Throughout her long life she was a faithful saint, teaching by precept and practice. When advancing years brought physical weakness her testimony remained strong. She enjoyed the visits of the saints, and in particular the Relief Society meetings which were periodically held in her home. The sympathy of the Leeds mem-

bers goes out to her daughter Sister Sarah Jane Walker, whose patient devotion and loving care have helped to keep her mother with us so long.

Cook. Brother John F. Cook passed away on Tuesday, November 15th, at the age of 61 years. His death was sudden and due to coronary thrombosis. Only on the preceding Saturday he had baptized his son Stephen in Wythenshawe chapel. Brother Cook is well known throughout the British Mission for great activity in the genealogical field. More than 20 years ago Elder Richard L. Evans indicated to Brother Cook where his calling lay and he has since devoted his life to research. He had a great fund of personal experiences to relate in connection with this work and surely impressed with its spiritual significance when he told of them. He will be missed, but doubtless will be welcomed by the many for whom he has effected the gospel ordinances vicariously. The funeral service was held in the Oldham Chapel, conducted by President L. C. Peterson and President Richard Devey, who gave the address. Elder Giles of Oldham dedicated the grave. Brother Cook

is survived by his wife, Sister Doris Cook, and four young sons.

Ordinations and Advancements in the Priesthood

Michael Grant Mitchell, of the Brighton Branch, was ordained to the office of a Priest on Sunday, December 4th, under the hand of President A. Hamer Reiser.

David Victor Palmer, of the New-chapel Branch, was ordained to the office of a Priest by his father, Elder Victor Palmer, on Sunday, December 4th.

David John Beckingham was ordained to the office of a Teacher by his father, Elder Charles Beckingham, on December 4th.

John Woodgate, of the Brighton Branch, was ordained to the office of a Teacher on Sunday, November 27th, under the hand of his father, Elder George Woodgate.

Anthony William Mitchell was ordained to the office of a Teacher on November 27th by Elder Victor Palmer in the Brighton Branch.

Roger John Perry, of Brighton, was ordained to be a Deacon in the Aaronic Priesthood on Sunday, November 27th, under the hand of Elder Peter Dyer.

CORRECTIONS. The brethren who were last month reported as Alan and Harold Crockell should have been Crookell.

Brother Jenkinson, ordained a Priest, is named James.

Brother Robert Taylor was ordained a *Deacon* in the Church.

IT WILL BE NOTED THAT SOME ITEMS HAVE BEEN OMITTED FROM REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STAR REPORTERS. THIS IS FOR TWO MAIN REASONS: THAT THEY ARE OUT OF DATE OR THAT THEY DO NOT CARRY SUFFICIENT INFORMATION. MAY WE AGAIN ASK REPORTERS FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION IN THIS MATTER, PLEASE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU GET YOUR MATERIAL TO THE STAR OFFICE WITHIN THE TIME FROM WHICH IT TAKES PLACE AND THE 10th OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH. GET YOUR INFORMATION CORRECT, PARTICULARLY NAMES AND DATES. LET'S KEEP OUR STAR UP-TO-DATE. IF YOU WILL WATCH THE STAR AND NOTE WHAT IS PUBLISHED YOU WILL LEARN TO KNOW HOW WE REQUIRE IT FROM YOU.



*President
A. Hamer Reiser*

Taking this opportunity, the Latter-day Saints of Great Britain would like to express their appreciation to President A. Hamer Reiser, who served as President of the British Mission for three and a half years. He has now been called to his home in Salt Lake City, Utah, to serve the Lord in new assignments.

The monuments to a great artist are the works of art he leaves; the monuments to a good man are his good works and the love of his friends. In this respect, President Reiser has a lasting monument, for we here in England will long remember him as an excellent mission president, a good friend, and a man personifying the righteous attributes expected in a Latter-day Saint. He has a deep appreciation, also, of this country and its wonderful history and traditions.

To his able successor, President Clifton G. M. Kerr, we offer our full support and co-operation, and to President Reiser and his good family we express our thanks for a job well done, and ask the blessings of the Lord upon them.

*President Reiser
and President Kerr*



*Genius is little more than
the capacity for sustained work*

President Stephen L. Richards